

# Lesson 26

## Words To Learn This Week

possible  
compel  
awkward  
venture  
awesome  
guide  
quench  
betray  
utter  
pacify  
respond  
beckon

"What do you read, my Lord?"  
"Words, words, words."

—Shakespeare, *Hamlet*

1. **possible** (päs' ə bl) able to be, be done, or happen; able to be true; able to be done or chosen properly
  - a. Call me tomorrow evening if **possible**.
  - b. It is now **possible** for man to walk on the moon.
  - c. Considering\* Melissa's weakness in writing, it is not **possible** for her to help you with your composition.
2. **compel** (kəm pel') force; get by force
  - a. It is not possible\* to **compel** a person to love his fellow man.
  - b. Heavy floods **compelled** us to stop.
  - c. Mr. Gorlin is a teacher who does not have to **compel** me to behave.
3. **awkward** (ô' kwərd) clumsy; not well-suited to use; not easily managed; embarrassing
  - a. Sally is very **awkward** in speaking to the class but quite relaxed with her own group of friends.
  - b. The handle of this bulky\* suitcase has an **awkward** shape.
  - c. Slow down because this is an **awkward** corner to turn.
4. **venture** (ven' chər) a daring undertaking; an attempt to make money by taking business risks; to dare; to expose to risk
  - a. Ulysses was a man who would not reject\* any **venture**, no matter how dangerous.
  - b. John Jacob Astor made his fortune by a lucky **venture** in animal furs.
  - c. Medics **venture** their lives to save wounded soldiers.
5. **awesome** (ô' səm) causing or showing great fear, wonder, or respect
  - a. The towering mountains, covered with snow, are an **awesome** sight.
  - b. Connie had such an **awesome** amount of work to complete before graduation she doubted\* she would have everything ready in time.
  - c. The atom bomb is an **awesome** achievement for mankind.
6. **guide** (gid) a person who shows the way; to direct; to manage
  - a. Tourists often hire **guides**.
  - b. The Indian **guided** the hunters through the forest.
  - c. Use the suggestions in the handbook as a study **guide**.
7. **quench** (kwench) put an end to; drown or put out
  - a. Foam will **quench** an oil fire.
  - b. Only Pepsi Cola will **quench** my thirst on such a hot day.
  - c. He reads and reads and reads to **quench** his thirst for knowledge.
8. **betray** (bitrā) give away to the enemy; be unfaithful; mislead; show
  - a. Nick's awkward\* motions **betrayed** his nervousness.
  - b. Without realizing what he was doing, the talkative soldier **betrayed** his unit's plans.
  - c. The child's eyes **betrayed** his fear of the fierce\* dog.
9. **utter** (ut' ər) speak; make known; express
  - a. When Violet accidentally stepped on the nail, she **uttered** a sharp cry of pain.
  - b. Seth was surprised when he was told that he had **uttered** Joan's name in his sleep.
  - c. When Mr. Fuller saw that his house had not been damaged in the fire, he **uttered** a sigh of relief.\*
10. **pacify** (pas' ə fī) make calm; quiet down; bring peace to
  - a. This toy should **pacify** that screaming baby.

- b. We tried to **pacify** the woman who was angry at having to wait so long in line.
  - c. Soldiers were sent to **pacify** the countryside.
11. **respond** (ri spänd') answer; react
- a. Greg **responded** quickly to the question.
  - b. My dog **responds** to every command I give him.
  - c. Mrs. Cole **responded** to the medicine so well that she was better in two days.
12. **beckon** (bek' ən) signal by a motion of the hand or head; attract
- a. Jack **beckoned** to me to follow him.
  - b. The delicious smell of fresh bread **beckoned** the hungry boy.
  - c. The sea **beckons** us to adventure.

Read the following passage to see how the new words are used in it.

### Some Tall Tales

Do you think it is **possible** to defeat an opponent so fierce\* that a glance\* at her turns one to stone? This was the fate of anyone who looked upon the Medusa, a dreaded\* monster whose hair was made of hissing serpents. The brave Perseus undertook to fight the Medusa, but he was **compelled** to do battle in a most **awkward** manner. To help Perseus in his **venture**, the goddess Minerva had lent him her bright shield, and the god Mercury had given him winged shoes. Cautiously he approached the **awesome** monster. Using the image of the Medusa in his shield as a **guide**, he succeeded in cutting off her head and fixing it to the center of Minerva's shield.

Perseus then flew to the realm of King Atlas whose chief pride was his garden filled with golden fruit. Thirsty and near collapse,\* he pleaded with the king for water to **quench** his thirst and for a place to rest. But Atlas feared that he would be **betrayed** into losing his golden apples. He **uttered** just one word, "Begone!" Perseus, finding that he could not **pacify** Atlas, **responded** by **beckoning** him to look upon Medusa's head. Atlas was changed immediately into stone. His head and hair became forests, his body increased in bulk and became cliffs, and the gods ruled that the heaven with all its stars should rest upon his shoulders. Can there be a worse calamity\* than that which befell Atlas?

Which of the words studied in this lesson is suggested by the picture?

